

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for providing a clear and thorough Office Action.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER; CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Office Action states that Claims 10, 16, and 20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objections for lack of antecedent basis and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In this Response, the Applicants have amended Claims 10, 16, and 20 to address the objections for lack of antecedent basis. Each of Claims 10, 16, and 20 is an independent claim and therefore no limitations of a base claim or intervening claims have been introduced.

REJECTED CLAIMS

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-15, and 17-19 have been rejected. The Applicants disagree with the grounds for rejection. However, to advance prosecution, in this response, the Applicants have canceled the rejected claims.

Accordingly, Applicants believe that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to address any matter that would advance prosecution of the application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 35 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made.

No fees are believed to be due in connection with this response. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this

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paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 50-0385 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231

on 8/20/99

by *Cathy Backma*